



THE TAMING OF A TAME HELEN.

Mr. Davis's Heroine Shows No Trace of Wildness, Nor Did "The Stubbornness of Geraldine" and "The Frisky Mrs. Johnson" Exhibit the Advertised Stubborn and Frisky Qualities.

If any wretch really started out to tame Helen the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Dumb Heroines would be justified in interfering. You couldn't imagine anything more brutal than to attempt such an unnecessary task of subjugation. Handcuffing an oyster or putting a spring lamb through the third degree wouldn't be a circumstance to it. Helen is as tame as buttermilk. There isn't a cantankerous hair in her head. From a rampaging point of view she is the limit of "nothin' doin'." To the honor of Mr. Davis and Mr. Miller let it be recorded that they spare the gentle Helen. The end of the play leaves her as tame as the beginning found her, but no tamer. "But why the title?" you will ask. Dunno, I'm sure—unless it be on the principle that makes "Fire! Fire!" a popular head for a soothing syrup advertisement. "The Taming of Helen" is a good title. It sounds exciting. It promises a thrill. Shakespeare must have thought so, for he used Mr. Davis's title in a modified form—"The Taming of the Shrew." The only difference—I mean, one of the differences—is that Shakespeare put some taming into his play. Which leads up to the morality of misleading titles. THEY have been rather rife this season. "The Stubbornness of Geraldine," for instance, dealt with a Geraldine whose stubbornness couldn't be detected with the aid of the X ray. And the frisky Mrs. Johnson was a sad matron without a shadow of a frisk in her. And a girl with any colored eyes would have gone green-eyed over the Green-Eyed Girl's husband's refusal to explain his suspicious behavior. And now arises a Helen whose taming occurred before she was born. Are these illusory Taming, Stubbornness, Friskiness and Green-Eyednesses any more to be commended than the notorious mermaid that draws diamonds to the door of a museum? (I mean, of course, apart from the important distinction between dimes and dollars.) And aren't the managers afraid of eventually antagonizing the good-natured player and teaching him to fight shy of shows that promise what they don't perform? It would be interesting if some disappointed visitor to the Savoy Theatre sued for the price of his seat on the ground that there was no taming of Helen in the performance. I'll have to consult Mr. Hummel about that.

RIGHT idea. I called up Mr. Hummel by telephone, and this is what he said: "No taming in 'The Taming of Helen'! No; just the same as the Frisky Mrs. What's-her-name who didn't frisk." * * * My opinion on misleading titles? Oh, well, it's just as Barnum said—that the people enjoy being humbugged. The world's full of it. Every merchant tries to humbug you with his advertisement. Business is another name for humbugging nowadays. "Beg pardon?" * * * Hello! * * * Oh, the legal aspect of the case? Certainly! * * * Yes, very good ground for action. When the play fails to live up to the title it's a clear case of false pretenses. * * * Would I take up such a case? By all means—and win it, too! Of course, the price of a seat is so small that few playgoers would take all that trouble to recover it by legal process, but the pioneer who brings the first suit because of a misleading title will be a great public benefactor. * * * Not at all; you're very welcome. * * * "Good-by!"

MR. RICHARD HARDING DAVIS takes us by the hand and leads us fearlessly into the haunts of the ravening British aristocrat. Without so much as a backward or Burke's Peerage for safeguard, we follow him into the fastnesses and let him lecture us on "Wild Marriages I Have Met." We shrink instinctively from the exhibits, but the intrepid novelist, duellist, war correspondent and playwright laughs a scornful laugh and cracks his whip at them and shows us how harmless they are. The Marquis of Woodcote is the first to appear. He wears the ends of his mustache turned up, which is a sign that he is no better than he ought to be. He has a supercilious drawl, which is a sign that the clever American hero will epifytote him when it comes to repartee. He looks and acts like an agent for a Second Avenue crayon portrait factory, which is a sign that Mr. Davis captured him in Darkest Mayfair. And then a glibly grand dame, Lady Gower by name, who chaperons her protegee, the heroine, to a bachelor's rooms and leaves her there alone with the bachelor. Also a great nobleman, the Duke of Deptford, who takes the American hero to his bosom and lets him dictate the Deptford family policy, because a practical joker has introduced him as the Prince of Padua. And others equally remarkable. At Lady Gower's reception the playful hero announces himself to the servants

as the Duke of Westchester, and they take him seriously, American accent and all. Which weakens one's faith in the sagacity of London servants and leads one to believe that dukes are more plentiful than Burke dears to reveal. All of which is important, since it is the result of a trained observer's view of aristocratic society from the inside. But it's the outside of those Park Lane houses that really gives one the best view. MANY false alarms are rung in "The Taming of Helen." The audience is always being led to believe that something is going to happen, but nothing ever does. A comic ballet is in possession of the starving hero's rooms when the curtain goes up. You watch that ballet hungrily. You feel sure that he is going to be a perfect storm centre of action. Aha! A lady visitor! Hero's servant introduces ballet as his brother. Brilliant! Now for complications! Exit the comic ballet—alas! never to return. In vain you try to guess why he ever happened. A dowager makes her exit through a door opposite the one by which she entered, saying, "Do you mind if I go out through your study?" Once more, aha! Something doing this time! But no; you never hear another word about it. Enter a naughty adventuress—Miss Drina de Wolfe—loaded with priceless jewelry. She flashes a smile on the hero. "At last!" you cry. "Here comes the plot!" But the adventuress lady continues to wander in and out at random, flashing more smiles and new jewels, and the plot continues to conceal itself. Eventually it resolves itself into this: That Helen (Miss Grace Elston) sees the hero bestowing an innocent embrace on a friendly actress (Miss Jessie Millward), misunderstands its meaning, and is "going away from here" until Miss Millward races after her in a gab and a pair of blue satin breeches and expels. And that's all the taming that is coming to Helen. KATE CAREW.

NO NEW PLAYS FOR HOLY WEEK.

Drawing the sackcloth of diminished receipts about him, the manager will lay himself down to discontented dreams the coming Holy Week. He will launch nothing new until the Lenten period is past, nor matter how temptingly Satan might stand outside the playhouse door and beckon the passing throng, the manager knows there are always a discouraging number of saints, as well as sinners, who cannot be enticed into the Temple of Theatres at this time. The first-nighter will therefore be obliged to remain in seclusion and meditate on his many misdeeds, unless he chooses to go to Proctor's Fifth Avenue theatre. "With commendable energy

your soul may find solace in the devotions of Signor Outino's trained monkeys, in the solid worth of Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey Morlan, 'the world's heaviest couple;' in the smilingly-borne burdens of Olga, the unfearing snake-charmer; in the admirable self-restraint of Drake's trained goats; in the loveless lot of the bearded lady; in the shortcomings of 'the midnet cog' and in the grand possibilities of the play in the theatre, 'My Mother-in-Law.' "The Billionaire," with Jerome Sykes and the entire original cast, will afford lively entertainment at the Grand Opera-House, where the large stage will be well adapted to the miniature

and surprising courage," the press agent modestly murmurs. Mr. Proctor will produce Sydney Rosenfeld's three-act play, "A Modern Crusoe." It is boldly recalled that this is the last play in which Roland Reed appeared before his fatal illness. It is sincerely to be hoped that this may not be the experience of Frederick Bond, who succeeds in the role of the up-to-date Crusoe. There is something comforting, even seasonable, in the intelligence that the play is laid on a desert island, and again are we uplifted by the announcement that Mr. Proctor has secured the original scenery. The reverent amusement-seeker may turn his feet toward Huber's Museum. There the Passion Play will be presented in a series of pictures, and after that, if you will give your attention at the other end of the hall, ladies and gentlemen,

will be the attraction at the West End Theatre. "The Minister's Daughters" is the title of the play which will be seen at the Star Theatre. "A Desperate Chance," the Eddie Brothers' melodrama, will be taken to the Metropolitan. That genuinely funny pair, James F.

Philip—I've just seen the Prince's squerry in the lobby and he says his Highness is immensely pleased with your part of the performance. First Actor—Really, I can scarcely believe that, because, you see, I don't appear until the next act. Philip (after an awkward pause)—Yes, that's why he's pleased—"The Taming of Helen."

"A Little Outcast," a new play of New York life, will be produced at the Third Avenue Theatre. Ward and Volen in "The Headwaters" will be at Proctor's Fifty-eighth Street Theatre. Harry Morris's Burlesquers will show

THE ELKS' CHARM. One of the first steps of an Elk is to provide himself with a charm made of two tushes of the splendid walrus, which he wears on his watch chain or fob or on his key ring. It is the badge of the order. With the increase in the membership of this lively organization an astonishing decrease in the number of walrus is noted, says the Pittsburgh Dispatch. In Wyoming alone 50,000 have been killed in the last four years for their tusks, which are worth \$5 a pair, or to an Indian two quarts of "tre-water." I have not the slightest idea that any member of the Elks is aware of this slaughter, and believe that when the matter is brought to the attention of the order measures will be taken to end it. In this event a substitute must be found for the tushes.

NEARLY ALL FORGOTTEN. As many as 7,257 men have been elected to the National House since the American Congress began. The number does not include those who have occupied seats and been thrown out on contests.

FRECKLES LIVER SPOTS. And all discolorations that cloud the complexion and destroy the beauty of the skin positively and safely removed. My scientific treatment never fails. Try my treatment for freckles, liver spots, and all skin blemishes. JOHN H. WOODBURY D. I. 22 West 23d Street, N. Y.

Amusements. KEITH'S. B'way. BEST SHOW IN TOWN. 10-12. PRICES 25c. and 50c. BIJOU MARIE CAHILL. B'way. 20th St. "NANCY BROWN." 3 P.M. Mat. To-day. A Gambler's Daughter. Next Week—A LITTLE OUTCAST. To-morrow Night—Wm. Morris' Big Comedy. PRINCESS THEATRE. B'way and 29th St. B'way. 8:30. Mat. To-day & Thurs. 2:30. AMELIA BINGHAM. "Frisky Mrs. Johnson." The exciting melodrama, "Devil's Island," will be put on by the stock company at the Americana Theatre. "The Fatal Wedding," with a capable cast and elaborate scenic accessories,

That excellent comedy, "A Social Highwayman," will be presented at the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street house, with Ned Fowler, High Ford and Lilian Kemble in the principal roles. George Neville and company will head the bill at the Newark house. One of the many high-class features at the Circle will be "The Grand

Finch Lee—We Englishmen don't mind you Americans coming over here and taking away our trade, but you mustn't take away the American girl. That's the best thing you bring over—"The Taming of Helen."

Opera Trio. Signor Abramoff, Edith Decker and William Xanter, who will give the prison scene from "Faust." The ever popular Fanny Rice and Wilfred Clarke and company will form part of an attractive bill at Hurst & Seamon. De Kolts, the Wizard, will continue to hold forth at the Eden Musee. Sunday night concerts will be given in various vaudeville houses and the popular-priced theatres. ATTRACTIONS WHICH REMAIN. Remaining at the leading theatres will be "Twirly Whirly" and "The Big Little

Amusements. TRY PROCTOR'S TO-NIGHT. 25c. Reserved Every Aft. & Eve.—Full Orchestra. (CONTINUOUS VAUDEVILLE.) John L. Sullivan, Rose Stuart & Co., Elsie & Wallace, A. O. Dawson, others. Incomers as a Lamb, Minnie Seligman, Wm. Burdette, Florence Reed, Other Stock Favorites, Big Vaudeville. FIDDLER-DEB-DEB. Best Side New Combination House. 50 Singers, Dancers, Comedians. BIG VAUDEVILLE WEEK. Louis Simon & Co., Frederick Bros. & Burns, The 3 Keatons. Weber & Fields' MUSIC. B'way & 20th St. 2:15—Daily—5:15. LAST TWO WEEKS—THE MUSICAL TWIRLY-WHIRLY. A BURQUITT. A NEW VAUDEVILLE—THE BIG LITTLE PRINCESS. Grand-Mabelle Gilman. Next Jerome & The Week. Sykes & Billionaire. PASTOR'S. 16th St. near 4th Ave. CONTINUOUS. 25c. and 50c. GIVE. MURPHY'S THEATRE. 42d St. & 4th Ave. MURPHY'S THEATRE. 42d St. & 4th Ave. CYRIL FLETCHER'S GREATEST SUCCESS. LOVERS' LANE. 25c. and 50c. All the Comforts of Home. ELFIE FAY AND A RECORD. MAKING BILL. AT THE CIRCLE. 60th and Broadway. 2:15—Daily—5:15. Manhattan. THE EARL OF PAWTUCKET. 42d St. & 3d Ave. AMERICAN My Partner. Matinee Daily. Next week DEVIL'S ISLAND. THE MANOR. BIG COMEDY SUNDAY NIGHT. MAJESTIC GRAND CIRCLE. B'way & 59th St. 8:30. Mat. To-day & Wed. 2:30. WIZARD OF OZ. 25c. and 50c. with MONTGOMERY & STONE. Seats. \$1.00. ACADEMY OF MUSIC. 14th St. & Irving Pl. It is the talk of the town. THE SUBURBAN. 20 HORSES. Prices 25c. to 50c. Mat. Wed. & Sat. 2:30. ATLANTIC. GARDEN, Bowers, near Canal St. Orville & Frank. Matinee & Noon. Dwyer, Scherbert & Thomas, Marie. N. STAR. Lee, Ave. & 107th. Matinee To-day. THE SIGN OF THE CROSS. Next week—The Minister's Daughters. EDEN. World in Wax. NEW GROUPS. MUSEE. De Kolts the Wizard. To-night 9 P.M. Marion. J. J. Stoddard. The Minister's Daughters. Next week—A Country Girl—Original Production.

Amusements. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN. Afternoon at 2 and Evening at 8 o'clock. Double Extra hour earlier for a view of the Motor Circus, Warships, Freaks, Predigies, etc. BARNUM & BAILEY. GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH. 3 Circus Companies, 2 Menageries, Hippodrome, Spectacular Feats, Gallery of Freaks, Cyclists, Acrobats, 3 Hordes of Elephants, Baby Elephant and Mother, Jumping Horses, Leaping Ponies, Dumbest Race, 11000 and 11500 Knickerbocker, Blanche Bates in "The Darling of the Gods," Belasco's, James T. Powers in "The Jewel of Asia," Daly's, Blanche Bates in "Resurrection," Victoria, Amelia Bingham in "The Frisky Mrs. Johnson," Princess, Skandans & Bailey's Circus, Madison Square Garden. Admission to all, including numbered seats, 25 and 50 cents. 25th and 27th St. entrances only. Reserved seats, 75 cents, \$1.00 and \$1.50, according to location. (Madison Ave. entrance only.) Single box seats, \$2.00 and \$2.50. Box office now open, Madison Ave. entrance, from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M. for advance sale of seats from \$1.00 upward. No seats reserved by telephone. BROADWAY THEATRE. 41st St. & B'way. At 8:15. Mat. Wed. & Sat. 2:30. Special Prices Wednesday Mat. 50c. to \$1.50. Next week—A DISCREET CHANCE. The Musical Comedy Success. PRINCE OF PILSEN. Wallace's. Evng. 8:15. Mat. To-day & Wed. 2:30. "The best musical show in town." The Darling of the Gods. 4th Month, Henry W. Savage Presents Geo. Ade's HIT. SULTAN OF SULU. VICTORIA. B'way. 41st St. & B'way. Mat. Wed. & Sat. 2:30. WEDDY MALINDRE. Special Prices 50c. to \$1.50. "The Musical Comedy Success." NEW YORK TO-NIGHT. LAST TIME WILLIAMS & WALKER. BIG HIT! "IN DAHOMEY." DALY'S. At 8:15. Mat. Wed. & Sat. 2:30. TWO WEEKS ONLY—JAMES T. POWERS' "THE JEWEL OF ASIA." BELASCO THEATRE. Mat. Sat. 2:30. DAVID BELASCO'S "THE JEWEL OF ASIA." METROPOLIS. 12th St. & 3d Ave. ROSA MELVILLE. "THE JEWEL OF ASIA." 4th St. Theatre. near 6th St. Mat. Wed. & Sat. 2:30. "The Original & LILIPUTANS WEEK." Only ROYAL. Week. April 6—One Week Only—Spotless Town. Brooklyn Amusements. MONTAUK. Matinee & Eve. A COUNTRY GIRL.

A Series of Articles Which Will Interest All Young People—WINNING A WIFE, By HARRIET HUBBARD AYER. Will Begin in The Evening World Monday, April 6.